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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,473	08/26/2003	Junichi Sato	2003_1178A	2308
513	7590	07/09/2004	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.			JIMENEZ, MARC QUEMUEL	
2033 K STREET N. W.			ART UNIT	
SUITE 800			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			3726	

DATE MAILED: 07/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/647,473	Applicant(s) SATO ET AL.	
	Examiner Marc Jimenez	Art Unit 3726	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 1, line 9: "tyre" should be - - tire - -.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. **Claims 1-5** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites "the opposite ends" in line 6 which lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claim 4 recites "the opposite bead areas" in line 3 which lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 1-5** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woodward (2,825,961) in view of Ingersoll (2,359,479).

Woodward teaches a method of making a rim having hollow flanges **8,7** formed on its opposite annular edges comprising the steps of: providing metal strips **18** of a predetermined length, rolling a selected metal strip **18** of the predetermined length into a ring **20**, welding **19** the opposite ends of the ring **20**, curling each annular edge of the ring outward (fig. 5-6 and 9, note that the outer most edge of the ring **45** is considered to be curled outward because it is curled away from the center of the ring **45** initial diameter as shown at **20** in fig. 8), and rolling the main annular part of the ring **20** into a required shape(fig. 10-11).

Woodward teaches the invention cited with the exception of specifically teaching cutting an elongated metal band of a fixed width to provide the metal strips of predetermined length **18**.

Ingersoll teaches cutting an elongated metal band **21** of a fixed width to provide metal strips of predetermined length **20**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention,

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to have provided the invention of Woodward, with cutting an elongated metal band of a fixed width to provide the metal strips of predetermined length, in light of the teachings of Ingersoll, in order to provide metal strips having the same width and thickness.

Regarding claim 2, Ingersoll teaches removing burr or flash (fig. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided the invention of Woodward with the features of claim 2, in order to provide a smooth rim surface.

Regarding claim 3, as shown in fig. 10-11 of Woodward, the main annular part of the ring is sandwiched between inner and outer rolls and is roll-formed to define a well **10** along the center line of the main annular part.

Regarding claim 4, Woodward teaches bending the opposite bead areas toward the center well (fig. 7 and 10), closing the gap (**1,48** fig. 10) between each curl edge and the bead area, and unbending the opposite bead areas into the final rim shape (fig. 11, note that unbending could be any type of bending as long as there is bending performed).

Regarding claim 5, Woodward also teaches raising each curl edge into the final rim shape (fig. 11, raising could be any type of raising as long as bending is performed).

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc Jimenez whose telephone number is (703) 306-5965. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 5:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Marc Jimenez
Patent Examiner
AU 3726

MJ

July 8, 2004